

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)

Steering Committee (SC) Meeting

July 13, 2007, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Resources Agency Bldg., Room 1131

Draft Meeting Notes

Associated documents/handouts:

- Agenda
- Memorandum from BDCP Science Facilitation Team regarding Early input of BDCP Lead Scientist concerning evaluation of Conservation Strategy Options
- SC Draft Meeting Notes 6/1/07
- SC Draft Meeting Notes 6/15/07
- SC Draft Meeting Notes 6/29/07
- Handout #1: Preliminary draft operational parameters for BDCP Conservation Strategy Option #1 (Existing SWP/CVP Diversion Facilities) for a below-normal water year
- Handout #2: Preliminary draft operational parameters for BDCP Conservation Strategy Option #2 (Existing SWP/CVP Diversion Facilities with an Eco-crescent of Operable Barriers) for a below-normal water year
- Handout #3: Preliminary draft operational parameters for BDCP Conservation Strategy Option #3 (Dual conveyance facility) for a below-normal water year
- Handout #4: Preliminary draft operational parameters for BDCP Conservation Strategy Option #4 (Isolated Conveyance Facilities) for a below-normal water year

Action Items and Key Decisions

- SC will reconvene Wednesday 7/18 (time and location TBA [later announced for 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m, Resources Bldg., Room 1311]) to continue discussion and approve the flow parameters to be used in the upcoming evaluation of the four CS Strategy Options.
- Technical discussion of flow parameters will continue today (7/13) at 1 p.m. in Room 1131. Chuck Hanson and Armin Munevar will be in attendance to review the biological and hydrodynamic modeling details (flow parameters) with SC members. Minor changes to the current flow ranges may be made.
- Technical discussion of flow parameters will be held Tuesday 7/17 at 11 a.m. in Room 1131. Chuck Hanson will be in attendance to review and take comments on flow parameters and ranges. Minor changes to the current flow ranges may be made.
- Applications for membership in BDCP by The Bay Institute, represented by Gary Bobker, and Contra Costa Water District, represented by Greg Gartrell, were approved. BDCP membership will not expressly be limited in the future as the Membership Workgroup proposed, however any future applications will be considered with an understanding that growing the SC could pose challenges to managing BDCP effectively and efficiently.

Updates

- *NRDC v. Kempthorne*, the federal court case regarding OCAP is proceeding. On 7/9 DWR submitted their declarations to the judge.

- Next week Gov. Schwarzenegger is planning Water Week, with three major events around the state, including one in the Delta. As more information becomes public K. Scarborough may call on SC members to attend events to represent BDCP.

Review of meeting notes

6/1 notes-- Revisions were made based on comments at previous meeting. Notes approved.

6/15 notes-- Approved pending the following changes:

- Page 1, "Updates," second to last bullet change "south Bay pumps" to "south Delta pumping plants"
- Delta smelt upper temperature viability limit is 77°F (25°C), not 75°F

6/29 notes—

- Page 1, "Updates," change "Alameda DWR court case" to "federal court case on OCAP," and change "revised BO for OCAP" to "declarations will be presented to the judge on 7/2."
- Page 4, Science Workgroup change "would" to "could" regarding science workshops.
- Page 2, paragraph 3, bullet 2, change 6/13 date to 7/13 for Outreach workgroup date.

Note that the CS Options are draft only, and are subject to ongoing revision through 2007. BDCP Conservation Strategy has not yet been developed, and the CS Options are not alternatives in the legal and regulatory sense.

Membership Workgroup

Both co-chairs absent; Laura King Moon presenting. Workgroup met last week to discuss: 1) recommendations to SC regarding applications from Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) and The Bay Institute, and 2) size of the SC and whether to limit or restrict future additional membership to BDCP.

1. The Workgroup recommends admitting both applicants to membership in BDCP. The SC accepted The Bay Institute, represented by Gary Bobker, and CCWD, represented by Greg Gartrell, as members of the BDCP Steering Committee. See also Action Items and Key Decisions.
2. The Workgroup recommended capping SC membership with the addition of the two new members. The Workgroup members are concerned that further growth will compromise the efficiency and efficacy of the committee. The SC decided to accept future applications for SC membership with the understanding that growing the SC larger could pose challenges to managing BDCP effectively and efficiently. BDCP management will also look for another room for future meetings because Room 1131 may not be large enough to accommodate all members. See also Action Items and Key Decisions.

Outreach Workgroup

Karla Nemeth (co-chair) presenting. The Outreach Workgroup meets Tuesdays 12:00 p.m.- 1:00 p.m., location variable.

1. The Workgroup made progress on the Federal Register draft Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS on the HCP, but did not reach consensus on a final document. A draft will be available on Monday. Legal review of the document will continue next week. Comments from BDCP members are invited; input should be received by K. Nemeth as soon as possible. The final draft NOI will be presented to SC on 7/27 for review and approval.
2. A Request for Qualifications will be released shortly and will be sent to public relations/communications firms. The Workgroup goal is to retain a consultant by the end of August. SLDMWA will likely administer that contract.
3. The Workgroup is preparing an application for additional Section 6 funding during the upcoming grant cycle.

Conservation Strategy (CS) Workgroup

Paul Cylinder presenting. The consultant team is focusing on preparing the CS Options evaluation currently, and the CS Workgroup is meeting less regularly. SAIC will continue to check in with CS Workgroup and/or with SC during CS Options evaluation development. The document comparing the Options will be available by the end of August. Evaluation will be based on the 17 criteria that were used in the prior bundles evaluation and is intended to enable BDCP members to compare among the four CS Options.

Chuck Hanson presented the flow parameters that will be used in coarse-scale hydrodynamic modeling that will be used to support CS Options evaluation. The parameters will be used for CalSIM II, DSM2, and the RMA models. The flow parameter ranges were determined for a below-normal rainfall year using best professional judgment.

The Workgroup discussed each of the flow parameters in depth but did not come to consensus on several details. Flow parameters include: Delta salinity standards, Sacramento River flow at Rio Vista, San Joaquin River flow at Vernalis, X_2 , total outflow, hydraulic residence time in selected channels, DCC operation, Head of Old River (HORB), combined Old and Middle River flows, QWEST, and SWP/CVP VAMP operations. Some parameters will not be specified but will rather be modeled as dependent variables (i.e., model outputs).

There was agreement among members that if one group would like to broaden the range of the model, the other groups should support that. There was also recognition by the SC that these models are for preliminary evaluation and can be re-run and later in the BDCP process. C. Hanson, A. Munevar, and P. Cylinder will meet with a small group this afternoon to receive NGO's ideas for changes to the parameters, and again with technical staff from represented entities Monday. The full SC will meet again on Wednesday 7/18, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 pm with the intention of finalizing and approving the parameters.

Science Workgroup

Brent Walthall (co-chair) presenting, with Bruce DiGennaro and Wayne Spencer (co-facilitators) on the phone. There was a Workgroup meeting 6/27 to discuss the science advisory process. The first science advisors workshop is being scheduled by the facilitators for August 20-22 or September 12-14, depending on availability of the science advisors. The recent meeting covered the content of the upcoming workshop.

The Workgroup has had difficulty with scheduling among its members; K. Scarborough suggested they form a subgroup to streamline and remain nimble as the Independent Science process gets further underway.

The SC discussed the content of the workshop, specifically how the questions are developed and the degree to which SC has oversight of the questions that are posed to the advisors. K. Scarborough summarized the process: the science advisors should be given significant direction on the topics/issues for which the SC would like more information and advice, which can be in the form of a list of questions, but the facilitators may wordsmith and choose/prioritize questions consistent with the independence of the science process. There is a revised draft of questions that has been developed by the Science Workgroup with oversight from the SC. The Workshop will focus on topics and issues outlined by NCCPA.

Denise Reed, Lead Scientist, reviewed the proposed CS Options evaluation process and provided feedback in the form of a memo distributed by the Science Facilitators. See also Handouts and Associated Documents. Her main suggestions were to cite the evaluation text (published literature and personal communication references), and to provide more specific definitions of criteria scaling categories (i.e., further define high, medium, and low categories).

Public Comments

Barbara Berman from Planning and Conservation League. They support that the SC engaged in the parameter questions. It's better to parameterize the model now, rather than after the fact to avoid re-paramaterizing because some members "don't like the answer." Encourages SC to consider using the flow parameters identified by Peter Moyle and Tina Swanson's letter.

Next Meeting

Friday, 6/29/07. Same time and location.

Attendees

Introductions

Melanie Rowland (NOAA Office of General Counsel)

By phone

Bill Boyd (TNC)

Wayne Spencer (Science Facilitator)
Bruce DiGennaro (Science Facilitator)
Gary Bobker (The Bay Institute)

Representatives

Karen Scarborough (Resources Agency)
Laura King Moon (State Water Contractors)
Paul Cylinder (SAIC)
Will Stelle (Resources Agency)
Jason Peltier (USBR)
John Engbring (USFWS)
Karla Nemeth (Zone 7)
Armin Munevar (SAIC/CH2M Hill)
Kenny Watkins (CFBF)
Jerry Johns (DWR)
John McCamman (DFG)
Richard Roos-Collins (NHI/American Rivers)
Anthony Saracino (TNC)
John Cain (NHI)
Tracy Ligon (Santa Clara Valley Water Agency)
Ted Meyers (NOAA Fisheries)
Brent Walthall (Kern County Water Agency)
Jeffrey Russell (Mirant Energy)
Dale Myers (Zone 7 Water Agency)
Frank Michny (USBR)
Marc Ebbin (Resources Agency)
Ara Azhderian (SLDMWA)
Roger Patterson (MWD)

Additional attendees

See sign-in sheets